In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) Method for amplification of a target RNA sequence comprising the following steps:

(a) annealing a first primer to the target RNA sequence, said first primer comprising a hybridizing sequence, which is complementary to and hybridizes to at least a first segment of the target RNA sequence, operatively associated with a promoter sequence;

(b) extending said first primer in a reaction catalyzed by a DNA polymerase, forming a first RNA/cDNA hybrid nucleic acid molecule;

(c) selectively removing the target RNA sequence of the first RNA/cDNA hybrid nucleic acid molecule forming a fist single stranded cDNA sequence;

(d) annealing a second primer to the obtained first single stranded cDNA sequence, said second primer comprising a hybridizing sequence which is complementary to and hybridizes to a first segment of the first single stranded cDNA sequence;

(e) extending said second primer in a reaction catalyzed by a DNA polymerase to form a first double stranded DNA molecule; and

(f) employing the first double stranded DNA molecule of step (e) in the preparation of a plurality of RNA transcripts that are complementary to the target RNA sequence in a reaction catalyzed by a DNA-dependent RNA polymerase with specificity for the promoter sequence comprised in the first primer;

wherein the first primer comprises a hybridizing sequence of 7 to 14 nucleotides, a transcription enhancing sequence, and an anchor which is capable of binding to a second segment of the target RNA sequence, and/or wherein the second primer comprises a hybridizing sequence of 7 to 14 nucleotides, an amplification enhancing sequence and an anchor which is capable of binding to a second segment of the first single stranded cDNA.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(g) annealing the second primer to the RNA transcripts produced in step (f);

(h) extending the second primer in a reaction catalyzed by the DNA polymerase to form a second RNA/cDNA hybrid nucleic acid molecule;

(i) selectively removing the RNA of the second RNA/cDNA hybrid molecule to obtain a second single stranded cDNA molecule;

(j) annealing the first primer to the obtained second single stranded cDNA sequence;

(k) extending the 3' end of the second single stranded cDNA molecule in a reaction catalyzed by the DNA polymerase using the first primer as a template to form a second partly double stranded DNA molecule comprising a double stranded promotor site;

(l) employing the second double stranded DNA molecule of step (k) in the preparation of a plurality of RNA transcripts complementary to the target RNA sequence in a reaction catalyzed by the DNA-dependent RNA polymerase with specificity for the promotor sequence in the first primer.

3. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the first primer comprises, going from the 5' end to the 3' end, an anchor, a transcription enhancing sequence, and a hybridizing sequence consisting of 7 to 14 nucleotides which are complementary to a first segment of the target RNA sequence of 7 to 14 contiguous nucleotides.

4. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the second primer comprises, going from the 5' end to the 3' end, an anchor, an amplification enhancing sequence, and a hybridizing sequence consisting of 7 to 14 nucleotides which are complementary to the first segment of the first single stranded cDNA sequence of 7-14 contiguous nucleotides.

5. (Previously presented) Method a of claim 1, wherein the hybridizing sequence comprises 7-10 nucleotides which are complementary to a first segment of the target RNA sequences of 7 to 10 contiguous nucleotides.

6. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the anchor is an optionally modified oligonucleotide, comprising 7 to 22 optionally modified nucleotides which binds to the second segment of the target RNA sequence or to the second segment of the first single stranded cDNA molecule.

7. (Previously presented) Method of claim 6, wherein the anchor is an optionally modified oligonucleotide, comprising 7 to 14, preferably 9-14, optionally modified nucleotides.

8. (Previously presented) Method of claim 6, wherein the anchor comprises DNA, RNA, 2'O-methyl modified nucleotides and/or LNA.

9. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the anchor comprises PNA.

10. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the anchor comprises a protein, or fragments derived thereof, which bind(s) to the second segment of the target RNA sequence or the second segment of the first single stranded cDNA molecule.

11. (Previously presented) Method of claim 10, wherein the protein, or fragments derived thereof, are chosen from the group consisting of a RNA binding protein, a polyC-binding protein, a polyA-binding protein and a protein comprising a zinc-finger, a restriction enzyme, and an antibody, or fragments thereof.

12. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the second segment is separated from the first segment by 0 to 6 nucleotides, preferably by 0 to 4 nucleotides, more preferably by 0 to 3 nucleotides.

13. (Currently amended) Method of claim 1, wherein the transcription enhancing sequence reads:

5'-AAACGGGCACGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:39).

14. (Currently amended) Method of claim 1, wherein the amplification enhancing sequence reads:

5'-GACTTCAGGACTTCAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:40).

15. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the promoter sequence is the bacteriophage T7 promoter sequence.

16. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the DNA polymerase is the avian myeloblastosis virus (AMV) reverse transcriptase.

17. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the target RNA sequence is a segment of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

18. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the target nucleic acid is a segment of the human hepatitis C virus.

19. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1, wherein the RNA transcripts are detected by one or more sequence-specific probes.

20. (Previously presented) Method of claim 19, wherein the sequence-specific probe hybridizes to a sequence identical to the amplification sequence of the second primer.

21. (Withdrawn) Primer comprising a hybridizing sequence, which is complementary to and hybridizes to a first segment of a target RNA sequence, and an anchor binding to a second segment of the target RNA sequence.

22. (Withdrawn) Primer, comprising, going from the 5' end to the 3' end, an anchor, a transcription enhancing sequence or an amplification enhancing sequence, and a hybridizing sequence of 7–14 nucleotides, preferably 7–10 nucleotides.

23. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the anchor is an optionally modified oligonucleotide, comprising 7 to 22 optionally modified nucleotides, which bind to the second segment of the target RNA sequence or to the second segment of the first single stranded cDNA molecule.

24. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 23, wherein the anchor is an optionally modified oligonucleotide, comprising 7 to 14, preferably 9 to 14, optionally modified nucleotides.

25. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the anchor comprises DNA, RNA, 2'O-methyl modified nucleotides and/or LNA nucleotides.

26. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the anchor comprises PNA.

27. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the anchor comprises a protein, or fragments derived thereof, which are capable of specific binding to the second segment of the target RNA sequence or the second segment of the first single stranded cDNA sequence.

28. (Withdrawn) Primer as claimed in claim 27, wherein the protein, or fragments derived thereof, is selected from the group consisting of an RNA binding protein, a polyC-binding protein, a polyA-binding protein and a protein comprising a zinc-finger, a restriction enzyme, and an antibody or fragments thereof.

29. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) Primer of claim 21, wherein the transcription enhancing sequence reads

5' AAACGGGCACGAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:39).

30. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) Primer of claim 21, wherein the amplification enhancing sequence reads

5'-GACTTCAGGACTTCAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:40).

31. (Withdrawn) Primer of claim 21, wherein the promoter sequence is the bacteriophage T7 promoter sequence.

32. (Withdrawn) Kit for the amplification and/or detection of a target RNA sequence, comprising at least one or more primers as claimed in claim 21.

33. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) Kit of claim[[33]] 32, further comprising one or more sequence-specific probes, an amplification buffer, and/or one or more enzymes.